

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



Department of Executive Services  
Finance and Business Operations Division  
Procurement and Contract Services Section  
206-684-1681 TTY Relay: 711

DATE ADVERTISED: **July 27, 2006**

RFP Title: **Public Health Research Consultant**

Requesting Dept./ Div.: **Seattle-King County Public Health**

RFP Number: **137-06CMB**

Due Date: **August 17, 2006 — no later than 2:00 P.M.**

Buyer: **Cathy M. Betts** [cathy.betts@metrokc.gov](mailto:cathy.betts@metrokc.gov), (206) 263-4267

*There will be no pre-proposal for this RFP.*

Sealed Proposals are hereby solicited and will **ONLY** be received by

**King County Procurement Services Section  
Exchange Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
821 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104-1598**

Office Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

## SUBMITTERS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THE FORM BELOW (TYPE OR PRINT)

Company Name		
Address		City/State/Zip Code
Signature	Authorized Representative / Title	
E-mail	Phone	Fax
Prime Proposer SEDB Certification number (if applicable - see Section II, <a href="#">Part 8</a> of this RFP)		
Sub-Consultants SEDB Certification numbers (if applicable)		

This Request for Proposal will be provided in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, audio cassette or computer disk for individuals with disabilities upon request.

If you received or downloaded this document in .pdf format, a MS Word copy may be obtained by contacting the buyer listed above. This MS Word document will be transmitted by e-mail.

Sealed proposals are hereby solicited and will be received only at the office of the King County Procurement Services Section at 821 Second Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Seattle, Washington, 98104 no later than 2 p.m. on the date noted above regarding a *Public Health Research Consultant* for the *Seattle-King County Public Health*. These services shall be provided to King County in accordance with the following and the attached instructions, requirements, and specifications.

**Submittal:** King County requires the Proposer to sign and return *this entire Request for Proposal (RFP) document*. The Proposer shall provide *one unbound original* and *seven (7) copies* of the proposal response, data or attachments offered, for *eight (8) items* total. You are to submit one (1) CD Rom of your proposal response also in Microsoft 2000 or 2002-2003/XP format. The original in both cases shall be noted or stamped "Original".

**Questions:** Proposers will be required to submit any questions in writing prior to the close of business Tuesday, August 8, 2006 in order for staff to prepare any response required to be answered by Addendum. Questions are best received and most quickly responded to when sent via e-mail directly to the following King County procurement personnel: *Primary* – Cathy Betts, Buyer [cathy.betts@metrokc.gov](mailto:cathy.betts@metrokc.gov) / *Secondary* – Roy L. Dodman, Senior Buyer [roy.dodman@metrokc.gov](mailto:roy.dodman@metrokc.gov). Questions may also be sent via email to the address above.

## **SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. King County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against individuals or firms because of their race, color, creed, marital status, religion, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or the presence of any mental, physical or sensory handicap in an otherwise qualified handicapped person.
- B. All submitted proposals and evaluation materials become public information and may be reviewed by appointment by anyone requesting to do so *at the conclusion* of the evaluation, negotiation, and award process. This process is concluded when a signed contract is completed between King County and the selected Consultant. Please note that if an interested party requests copies of submitted documents or evaluation materials, a standard King County copying charge per page must be received prior to processing the copies. King County *will not* make available photocopies of pre-printed brochures, catalogs, tear sheets or audio-visual materials that are submitted as support documents with a proposal. Those materials will be available for review at King County Procurement.
- C. No other distribution of proposals will be made by the Proposers prior to any public disclosure regarding the RFP, the proposal or any subsequent awards without written approval by King County. For this RFP all proposals received by King County shall remain valid for ninety (90) days from the date of submittal. All proposals received in response to this RFP will be retained.
- D. Proposals shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward and concise but complete and detailed description of the Proposer's abilities to meet the requirements of this RFP. Fancy bindings, colored displays and promotional materials are not desired. Emphasis shall be on completeness of content.
- E. King County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals that are deemed not responsive to its needs.
- F. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, addenda shall be created and posted at the King County Procurement web site. Addenda will also be conveyed to those potential submitters providing an accurate e-mail address. If desired, a hard copy of any addenda may be provided upon request.
- G. King County is not liable for any cost incurred by the Proposer prior to issuing the contract.
- H. A contract may be negotiated with the Proposer whose proposal would be most advantageous to King County in the opinion of the Seattle-King County Public Health, all factors considered. King County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.
- I. It is proposed that if a selection is made as a result of this RFP, a contract with a fixed price/prices will be negotiated. Negotiations may be undertaken with the Proposer who is considered to be the most suitable for the work. This RFP is primarily designed to identify the most qualified firm. Price and schedule will be

negotiated with the “first choice” Proposer; negotiations may be instituted with the second choice and subsequent Proposer until the project is canceled or an acceptable contract is executed.

- J. This RFP shall be available for use by all King County Departments, Divisions and Agencies. If orders will be placed by the County's Transit Division, the Contractor will be required to sign and comply with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA)'s required documentation. This RFP may also be used, as appropriate and allowed, by other governmental agencies and political sub-divisions within the State of Washington.
- K. The contents of the proposal of the selected Proposer shall become contractual obligations if a contract ensues. Failure of the Proposer to accept these obligations may result in cancellation of their selection.
- L. A contract between the Consultant and King County shall include all documents mutually entered into specifically including the contract instrument, the original RFP as *issued* by King County, and the response to the RFP. The contract must include, and be consistent with, the specifications and provisions stated in the RFP.
- M. News releases pertaining to this RFP, the services, or the project to which it relates, shall not be made without prior approval by, and then only in coordination with, the King County Department of Executive Services.
- N. King County Code 4.16.025 prohibits the acceptance of any proposal after the time and date specified on the Request for Proposal. There shall be no exceptions to this requirement.
- O. King County agencies' staffs are prohibited from speaking with potential Proposers about the project during the solicitation.

Please direct all questions to:

Cathy M. Betts / Buyer  
(206) 263-4267  
[cathy.betts@metrokc.gov](mailto:cathy.betts@metrokc.gov)

or Roy L. Dodman / Senior Buyer  
(206) 263-4266  
[roy.dodman@metrokc.gov](mailto:roy.dodman@metrokc.gov)

NOTE: Documents and other information is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon advance request by calling Mary Lou Allwine at 206-296-4210 or TTY711.

- P. Protest Procedure - King County has a process in place for receiving protests based upon either proposals or contract awards. If you would like to receive or review a copy, please contact the Buyer named on the front page of this document or call Procurement Services at 206-684-1681.
- Q Electronic Commerce and Correspondence. King County is committed to reducing costs and facilitating quicker communication to the community by using electronic means to convey information. As such, most Invitations to Bid and Requests for Proposal, as well as related exhibits, appendices, and issued addenda can be found on the King County Internet Web Site, located at <http://metrokc.gov/procurement>. Please refer to the “RFPs, RFQs & ITBs / New / Consultants” portion of the site (note: some documents or portions thereof may not be posted on the site. Please note any special messages regarding a particular solicitation). This information is posted at the Web Site as a *convenience* to the public, and is not intended to replace the King County process of formally requesting bid documents and providing the County with contact information for the potential proposer. Each proposer bears the responsibility to confirm the completeness and accuracy of all documents pertaining to a given solicitation, including the receipt of all issued addenda.

If a Proposer downloads a document from the Web Site and does not contact the Procurement Office to obtain a hard copy, the proposer *must* register with the County via the Procurement website. To register, access “Contact Us” on the left side of the screen, then “Vendor Registration”. As this point you will need to submit complete information regarding your company and primary contact, as well as additional information you feel is relevant. Please note which document/documents were downloaded.

After proposals have been opened in public, the County will post a listing of the consultants submitting proposals at the King County Internet site. Please refer to the “RFPs, RFQs & ITBs / Awarded / Consultants” portion of the site for a listing, as well as a notification of a final award.

Unless otherwise requested, letters and other transmittals pertaining to this RFP will be issued to the e-mail address noted in our files, and after submittal, noted on the first page of this document. If other personnel should be contacted via e-mail in the evaluation of this proposal, or to be notified of evaluation results, please complete the information in the table below.

Contact Name	Title	Phone	E-mail address

- R. Washington State Public Disclosure Act (RCW 42.17) requires public agencies in Washington to promptly make public records available for inspection and copying unless they fall within the specified exemptions contained in the Act, or are otherwise privileged.
- S. Proposals submitted under this RFP shall be considered public documents and with limited exceptions proposals that are recommended for contract award will be available for inspection and copying by the public. King County may request an electronic copy of your proposal response at a later time for this purpose. This copy may be requested in MS Word format, and delivered either by e-mail or directly delivered on CD.

If a Proposer considers any portion of his/her proposal to be protected under the law, the Proposer shall clearly identify on the page(s) affected such words as "CONFIDENTIAL," "PROPRIETARY" or "BUSINESS SECRET." The Proposer shall also use the descriptions above in the following table to identify the effected page number(s) and location(s) of any material to be considered as confidential (attach additional sheets as necessary). If a request is made for disclosure of such portion, the County will determine whether the material should be made available under the law. If the material is not exempt from public disclosure law, the County will notify the Proposer of the request and allow the Proposer ten (10) days to take whatever action it deems necessary to protect its interests. If the Proposer fails or neglects to take such action within said period, the County will release the portion of the Proposal deemed subject to disclosure. By submitting a Proposal, the Proposer assents to the procedure outlined in this paragraph and shall have no claim against the County on account of actions taken under such procedure.

Type of exemption	Beginning Page / Location	Ending Page / Location

- T. Proposers are urged to use recycled/recyclable products and both sides of paper for printed and photocopied materials, whenever practicable, in preparing responses to this RFP.
- U. During the solicitation process, King County strongly discourages the transmittal of Company information, brochures, and other promotional materials, other than address, contact and e-mail information, prior to the due date of proposals. Any pre-packaged material received by a potential proposer prior to the receipt of proposals shall not be reviewed by the County.
- V. Bid Identification Label: Please see the Bid Identification Label on the last page of this document.

## SECTION II – PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK.

### PART 1 - INTRODUCTION & GENERAL INFORMATION:

The mission of Public Health – Seattle and King County (PHSKC) is to provide public health services that promote health and prevent disease to King County residents in order to achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities. In support of this mission, PHSKC sponsors, conducts and participates in a variety of research activities involving department clients, employees and members of the general public. All research conducted within the Department's jurisdiction is required to meet accepted professional standards of research integrity, honesty and ethics. Ensuring these standards is top priority for PHSKC, therefore the Department is seeking to refine a research program within PHSKC that complies with state and federal laws regarding research integrity, while increasing Public Health's research potential to implement best practices, and ultimately, improve the health of King County residents.

### PART 2 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Public Health Research Administrative Review Committee (RARC) is the oversight structure for research activities within Public Health, regardless of funding source or IRB approval status, and is delegated to review and approve all research activities, specifically incoming IRB submissions and renewals, ensure compliance to state and federal regulations and disseminate best practice among PHSKC staff at all levels. RARC is not a Privacy Board, nor is it an Institutional Review Board (IRB). To assure proper review of research activities that involve human subjects, PHSKC collaborates, via contractual agreement, with the Human Subjects Division of the University of Washington (UW). Under conditions of this agreement the University of Washington serves as the IRB for PHSKC.

### PART 3 – SCOPE OF WORK

#### A. General

Public Health is seeking a Research Consultant to evaluate the Health Department's existing Research Administrative Review Committee (RARC) in order to promote academic research and ensure maximum efficiency, while maintaining integrity. The primary objectives of this project are to establish regulatory requirements and identify gaps, discuss operational impacts, address financial considerations and outline priority activities and implementation recommendations for PHSKC research activities. To achieve these objectives the selected Consultant will be responsible for the following activities and deliverables.

#### B. Deliverables

1. **Work plan** – develop a written and detailed project work plan
2. **Document Review** – review relevant current Health Department work plans and policies, as well as publications promulgated by the Washington Department of Health (WA DOH), the University of Washington Human Subjects Division, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Office of Research Integrity (ORI), the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP), the Office of Inspector General (OIG), etc. to establish a foundation for research requirements in the context of HIPAA.
3. **Interviews** – interview internal PHSKC researchers and external partners regarding research activities as they relate to streamlining the approval process; eliminating multiple IRB reviews; complying with applicable laws; utilizing internal resources; understanding data sharing agreements; advancing knowledge of disease prevention; applying best practices, reporting and publishing outcomes, etc. (a list of suggested interviewees will be provided to the selected Consultant).
4. **Defining research** - provide input on current guidelines for distinguishing research from public health surveillance, quality improvement, and program evaluation activities, etc.
5. **Research review requirements** – outline current and proposed research review requirements, including HIPAA considerations, for the CDC and NIH, PHSKC, WA DOH, and UW. Describe how these requirements affect researchers within the Health Department and how they impact the goal of enhancing our status as an academic health department. Develop recommendations for how to structure the Health Department's review requirements for different types of research.

6. **Electronic tracking system** – evaluate outside research institutions' electronic tracking systems, particularly noting what information is recorded that most efficiently identifies research participants in response to inquiries pursuant to HIPAA.
7. **Mini research committees** – determine feasibility of conducting divisional and programmatic research committees in conjunction with the Health Department's broader, oversight structure, *Research Administrative Review Committee*. The purpose of sub-committees is to expedite internal review of research proposals in specific programs/divisions within the Health Department. Identify what is necessary to support a sub-committee, or whether a single, unified committee is a more practical approach.
8. **Interface with Health Department's Grants & Contracts section** – assess the existing system of checks and balances to ensure that Grants and Contracts section is reviewing proposals that may implicate human subjects review, as well as review by the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. This task will likely will require education and reiteration of policy expectations.
9. **Training**- outline training expectations among affected internal stakeholders responsible for research activities. Provide recommendations for ongoing training, i.e., annual, web-based, conducted by RARC, external continuing education, etc.
10. **Research misconduct** – review the Health Department's internal misconduct policy and provide recommendations for improvements, oversight, surveys, and audits to ensure that integrity is maintained.
11. **Internal PHS&KC IRB feasibility** - assess whether an internal, or contracted IRB, is more cost effective for reviewing human subjects studies than utilizing the University of Washington, with whom the Health Department engages in a non-compensatory memorandum of understanding.
12. **Reciprocity relationships with external IRBs** – determine the Health Department's reciprocity related to volunteering staff time to the University of Washington's IRB and whether this satisfies remuneration for years of the University of Washington's *pro bono* review of the Health Department's research proposals. Throughout the years, the University of Washington has sought participation from Health Department staff. It is anticipated that as the volume of research proposals increases, the University of Washington may wish to renegotiate current provisions set forth in the agreement between the organizations. Also, evaluate how the Health Department may develop or expand relationships with other IRBs to reduce redundancy.
13. **Procuring grants department-wide** – discuss pursuing research grants that affect Public Health and reinforce the mission of PHSKC to ensure that all opportunities are evaluated. Is the Health Department aware of relevant grant alerts and are there missed opportunities?
14. **Enhance grant writing assistance** – promote expertise from grant writers who can assist the Health Department regarding preparing and submitting research proposals.
15. **Administrative grants**- explore grants offering administrative support to manage research oversight. This entails applying for grant-funded opportunities allowing traditionally non-funded activities among those institutions accountable for multiple, complex grants.
16. **Written report** – prepare a draft written report to executive leadership within the Health Department outlining options to consider for restructuring an internal research program. The draft report will incorporate the elements outlined above and contain cost-benefit analyses of various options, as well as proposed budget implications.

The draft report shall be submitted to the project manager and members of RARC prior to transmittal to executive leadership. The Consultant will allow a minimum of twenty five (25) working days for PHSKC to peer review and comment on the draft written report, prior to transmittal to executive leadership. The PHSCK Project Manager can extend the peer review period an additional ten days if needed. PHSKC shall have a period of twenty (20) business days after the Contractor notifies it that a deliverable is complete to evaluate the deliverable to determine if it contains any material deviations.

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Time</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Estimated Due Date</b>
1	Develop work plan	4 hours	written plan	9/06/06
2	Review documents	10 hours	written update	9/08/06
3	Interviews w/researchers	12 hours	written update	9/29/06
4	Guidelines for defining research	6 hours	written update	10/06/06
5	Research review requirements	8 hours	written update	10/12/06
6	Electronic tracking system	4 hours	written update	10/16/06
7	Mini RARCs per division	4 hours	written update	10/20/06
8	Interface w/Grants & Contracts	3 hours	written update	10/17/06
9	Dept-wide training	3 hours	written update	9/22/06
10	Research misconduct	4 hours	written update	10/16/06
11	Internal IRB	4 hours	written update	10/20/06
12	Reciprocity relationships w/IRBs	6 hours	written update	10/20/06
13	Procuring grants department-wide	4 hours	written update	10/30/06
14	Enhance grant writing assistance	4 hours	written update	10/30/06
15	Administrative grants re overhead	4 hours	written update	10/30/06
16	Written report outlining options	10 hours	draft written report	11/13/06

**C. Additional Requirements**

The Consultant will work collaboratively with the Project Manager, RARC, PHSKC content experts and external research partners in activities including, but not limited to:

- Maintenance of the project work plan
- Researching and gathering information
- Developing criteria for decision making or choosing among options
- Preparing for PHSKC or external committee presentations
- Delivering external presentations
- Peer review and feedback on deliverables

**D. PHSCK Requirements**

PHSKC subject matter experts and will be available in a timely basis to provide input to the research program assessment effort. PHSKC will provide project management and be primarily responsible for planning, monitoring and conducting quality assurance functions with support from the research Consultant. PHSKC will provide the Consultant with access to all required systems and documentation pertinent to the assessment. In additions, PHSKC will provide its 12<sup>th</sup> floor Compliance Office area as a Consultant work area.

**PART 4 – PROPOSAL CONTENT**

**A. Vendor Profile - Provide the following company information:**

- Company name, address, phone, fax and name of principal contact
- Brief company history & profile
- Experience & qualifications

- References, including projects undertaken with other local, state, or federal government agencies

B. Consultant Profile - Provide the following proposed Consultant information.

- Resume & statement of qualifications:
- Experience with contracts of a similar type, size and scope over the past three year period
- References, including those projects undertaken regarding human subject and public health authority (*clearly identify these references as such*)
- Responses to the following questions:
  - What is your experience dealing with human subject research issues?
  - What is your knowledge of state and federal laws regarding public health authority?
  - What is your experience with the Office of Research Integrity?

C. Cost Profile - Price will be a consideration in the evaluation and selection process. Provide an cost breakdown of the following:

- Consultant rate, according to activity breakdown and estimated hours detailed in the scope of work.
- Estimated Overhead
- Any other estimated costs not specifically mentioned above, but included in the bid price offered.
- Total estimated cost

## **PART 5 – TIMELINE**

All responses to the RFP must be submitted no later than 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2006.

## **PART 6 – EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Vendors submitting proposals will be evaluated based upon the quality of responses indicating a demonstrated and proven ability to carry out the scope of the project at the most efficient cost. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following topic areas:

- A. Vendor Profile (*15 points possible*): based on experience, qualifications and references
- B. Consultant Profile (*50 points possible*): based on experience, qualifications, references and answers to topic questions indicated
- C. Cost Profile (*25 points possible*): based on ability to undertake the contract at the most competitive rate.
- D. SEDB Certification (*10 points possible*): See Part 10 below.

If an award is not made based on the written evaluations alone, oral interviews may be conducted with the top-ranked proposers. Should interviews be conducted, they will be worth a total of 40 points. Final award would then be based on the sum total of the written evaluations and oral interviews.

## **PART 7 – SELECTION PROCESS**

Proposals shall be evaluated using a standard evaluation tool developed according to the criteria set forth in this RFP. A selection panel of at least three (3) topic experts will be responsible for the final evaluation and ranking of the submitted proposals. This may result in a short list of highest-rank firms. Vendors listed on the short list may be asked to provide additional information at an interview, demonstration or by other means. Public Health reserves the right to solicit additional information and/or conduct interviews as appropriate.

## **PART 8 – KING COUNTY CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM**

The purpose of the King County Contracting Opportunities Program is to maximize the participation of Small Economically Disadvantaged Businesses (SEDB) through the use of rating points in the award of King County competitively bid contracts for the acquisition of technical services. The program is open to all firms that are certified as an SEDB by King County's Business Development and Contract Compliance Office.



A "Small Economically Disadvantaged Business" (SEDB) means that a business and the person or persons who own and control it are in a financial condition, which puts the business at a substantial disadvantage in attempting to compete for public contracts. The relevant financial condition for eligibility under the Program is set at fifty percent (50%) of the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) small business size standards using the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), and an Owners' Personal Net Worth less than \$750K dollars.

A "Certified Firm" means a business that has applied for participation in King County's Contracting Opportunities Program, and has been certified as an SEDB by the King County Business Development and Contract Compliance (BDCC) office. Information about becoming a Certified Firm, as well as a list of Certified Firms, may be obtained by visiting the King County's Contracting Opportunities Program Website address: <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/bred/bdcc/prog/kccontractopp.htm> or contacting the BDCC office at (206) 205-0711.

In the evaluation of proposals, ten points will be allotted for SEDB participation. King County will count only the participation of SEDBs that are certified by King County at the date and time of proposal submittal. After tabulation of the selection criteria points of all prime submitters, ten (10) points shall be added to the score of all proposals that meet at least one of the two following sub-criterion:

1. If the Prime submitter is a SEDB firm that anticipates performing work for the entire contract unassisted and includes the SEDB certification number on page one of this submittal.
2. If the Prime submitter is not an SEDB but will use SEDBs for at least 5% of the total contract labor hours in the work to be performed in this contract, and who complete the following table and include it in their proposal submission:

<b>SEDB Certification Number</b>	<b>Sub-Consultant Name</b>	<b>Contact Name / Phone</b>	<b>Work to be performed</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Hours</b>

SEDB participation shall be counted only for SEDBs performing a commercially useful function according to custom and practice in the industry. A commercially useful function is defined as a specific scope of work for which the SEDB has the management and technical expertise to perform using its own workforce and resources.

### SECTION III - NONDISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

If a contract is awarded from this Request for Proposal, it will contain the following contract language:

#### PART 1: NON-DISCRIMINATION

- A. King County Code Chapters 12.16, 12.17 and 12.18 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and such requirements apply to this Contract; provided however, that no specific levels of utilization of minorities and women in the workforce of the Consultant shall be required, and the Consultant is not required to grant any preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in its employment practices; and provided further that, notwithstanding the foregoing, any affirmative action requirements set forth in any federal regulations, statutes or rules included or referenced in the contract documents shall continue to apply.
- B. During the performance of this Contract, neither the Consultant nor any party subcontracting under the authority of this Contract shall discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, nationality, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability in the employment or application for employment or in the administration or delivery of services or any other benefits under this Contract.
- C. The Consultant shall, prior to the commencement of the work and during the term of this Contract, furnish the County, upon request and on such forms as may be provided by the County, a report of the affirmative action taken by the Consultant in implementing the terms of this section. The Consultant will permit access by the County to the Consultant's records of employment, employment advertisements, application forms, other pertinent data and records related to this Contract for the purpose of monitoring and investigation to determine compliance with these requirements.
- D. The Consultant shall implement and carry out the obligations contained in its Affidavit and Certificate of Compliance regarding equal employment opportunity. Failure to implement and carry out such obligations in good faith may be considered by the County as a material breach of this Contract and grounds for withholding payment and/or termination of the Contract and dismissal of the Consultant.
- E. The Consultant shall comply fully with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, executive orders and regulations that prohibit such discrimination. These laws include, but are not limited to, RCW Chapter 49.60 and Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- F. During the performance of this Contract, neither the Consultant nor any party subcontracting under the authority of this Contract shall engage in unfair employment practices. It is an unfair employment practice for any:
  - 1. Employer or labor organization to discriminate against any person with respect to referral, hiring, tenure, promotion, terms, conditions, wages or other privileges of employment;
  - 2. Employment agency or labor organization to discriminate against any person with respect to membership rights and privileges, admission to or participation in any guidance program, apprenticeship training program, or other occupational training program;
  - 3. Employer, employment agency, or labor organization to print, circulate, or cause to be printed, published or circulated, any statement, advertisement, or publication relating to employment or membership, or to use any form of application thereof, which indicates any discrimination unless based upon a bona fide occupation qualification;
  - 4. Employment agency to discriminate against any person with respect to any reference for employment or assignment to a particular job classification;
  - 5. Employer, employment agency or a labor organization to retaliate against any person because this person has opposed any practice forbidden by KCC Chapter 12.18 or because that person has made a charge, testified or assisted in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing initiated under the provisions of KCC Chapter 12.18;
  - 6. Publisher, firm, corporation, organization or association printing, publishing or circulating any newspaper, magazine or other written publication to print or cause to be printed or circulated any

advertisement with knowledge that the same is in violation of KCC Chapter 12.18.030C., or to segregate and separately designate advertisements as applying only to men and women unless such discrimination is reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the particular business, enterprise or employment, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification; and/or

7. Employer to prohibit any person from speaking in a language other than English in the workplace unless:
  - a. The employer can show that requiring that employees speak English at certain times is justified by business necessity, and
  - b. The employer informs employees of the requirement and the consequences of violating the rule.

## **PART 2: REQUIRED SUBMITTALS**

- A. All Consultants entering into a contract or agreement with King County valued at \$25,000 or more shall, after the proposer receives written notice of selection, submit the following:
  1. A Personnel Inventory Report on the form provided by the County.
  2. An Affidavit of Compliance demonstrating the Consultant's commitment to comply with the provisions of KCC Chapter 12.16.
  3. A Sworn Statement of Compliance with 12.16 from any labor union or employee referral agency that refers workers or employees or provides or supervises training programs from whom the Consultant obtains employees.
- B. The County will not execute any agreement or contract without prior receipt of fully executed forms listed in subparagraph A above.
- C. Assistance with the requirements of this Section and copies of Chapters 12.16, 12.17 and 12.18 are available from the Business Development & Contract Compliance (BDCC) Section, phone (206) 205-0700.

## **PART 3: NONDISCRIMINATION IN SUBCONTRACTING PRACTICES**

- A. Compliance with Initiative 200. In accordance with the provisions of Washington Initiative 200, no County Minority and Women Business (M/WBE) utilization requirements shall apply to this Contract. No minimum level of M/WBE sub-consultant participation or purchase from M/WBE certified vendors is required and no preference will be given by the County to a bidder or Proposer for their M/WBE utilization or M/WBE status. Provided, however, that any affirmative action requirements set forth in any federal regulations or statutes included or referenced in the Contract documents will continue to apply.
- B. Non-Discrimination. During the term of this Contract, the Consultant shall not create barriers to open and fair opportunities to participate in County contracts or to obtain or compete for contracts and subcontracts as sources of supplies, equipment, construction and services. In considering offers from and doing business with sub-consultants and suppliers, the Consultant shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation or the presence of any mental or physical disability in an otherwise qualified disabled person.

During the performance of work performed under any Agreement resulting from this RFP, neither the consultant nor any party subcontracting under the authority of the agreement shall discriminate or engage in unfair contracting practices prohibited by K.C.C. 12.17.

- C. Record-Keeping Requirements. The Consultant shall maintain, for at least 6 years after completion of all work under this contract, records and information necessary to document its level of utilization of M/WBEs and other businesses as sub-consultants and suppliers in this contract and in its overall public and private business activities for the same period. The Consultant shall also maintain, for at least 6 years after completion of all work under this contract, all written quotes, bids, estimates or proposals submitted to the Consultant by all businesses seeking to participate on this Contract. Consultant shall make such documents available to the County for inspection and copying upon request. If this contract involves

federal funds, Consultant shall comply with all record keeping requirements set forth in any federal rules, regulations or statutes included or referenced in the contract documents.

D. Open Competitive Opportunities. King County encourages the utilization of minority owned businesses ("MBEs") and women-owned businesses ("WBEs")(collectively, "M/WBEs") in County contracts. The County encourages the following practices to promote open competitive opportunities for small businesses including M/WBEs:

1. Attending a pre-bid or pre-solicitation conference, if scheduled by the County, to provide project information and to inform M/WBEs and other firms of contracting and subcontracting opportunities.
2. Placing all qualified small businesses attempting to do business in King County, including M/WBEs, on solicitation lists, and providing written notice of subcontracting opportunities to M/WBEs and all other small businesses capable of performing the work, including without limitation all businesses on any list provided by the County, in sufficient time to allow such businesses to respond to the written solicitations.
3. Breaking down total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities, where economically feasible, in order to permit maximum participation by small businesses including M/WBEs.
4. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirements of this contract permit, that encourage participation by small businesses, including M/WBEs.
5. Providing small businesses including M/WBEs that express interest with adequate and timely information about plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract.
6. Utilizing the services of available community organizations, Consultant groups, local assistance offices, the County, and other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of small businesses including M/WBEs.

Further, the County encourages small businesses, including M/WBEs, to participate in the following practices to promote open competitive opportunities:

1. Attending a pre-bid or pre-solicitation conference, if scheduled by the County, to receive project information and to inform prime bidders/proposers of contracting and subcontracting capabilities.
2. Requesting placement on solicitation lists, and receipt of written notice of subcontracting opportunities.
3. Utilizing the services of available community organizations, Consultant groups, local assistance offices, the County, and other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of small businesses and M/WBEs.

E. Sanctions for Violations. Any violation of the mandatory requirements of the provisions of this Section shall be a material breach of contract for which the Consultant may be subject to damages and sanctions provided for by contract and by applicable law.

#### **PART 4: REQUIREMENTS DURING WORK**

##### **A. Site Visits**

King County may at any time visit the site of the work and the Consultant's office to review records related to actual utilization of and payments to subcontracting firms. The Consultant shall maintain sufficient records necessary to enable King County to review utilization of subcontracting firms. The Consultant shall provide every assistance requested by King County during such visits.

#### **PART 5: COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990**

The Consultant shall complete a Disability Self-Evaluation Questionnaire for all programs and services offered by the Consultant (including any services not subject to this Contract) and shall evaluate its services, programs and employment practices for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended ("504"), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). The Consultant shall complete a 504/ADA Disability Assurance of Compliance prior to execution of a contract.

## **SECTION IV - GENERAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

### **PART 1: TERMINATION CLAUSES**

- A. This Contract may be terminated by the County without cause, in whole or in part, upon providing the Consultant ten (10) calendar days' advance written notice of the termination.

If the Contract is terminated pursuant to this Section IV, paragraph A: (1) the County will be liable only for payment in accordance with the terms of this Contract for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination; and (2) the Consultant shall be released from any obligation to provide further services pursuant to the Contract.

- B. The County may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, upon five (5) calendar days' advance written notice in the event: (1) the Consultant materially breaches any duty, obligation, or services required pursuant to this Contract, or (2) the duties, obligations, or services required herein become impossible, illegal, or not feasible.

If the Contract is terminated by the County pursuant to this Subsection IV(B) (1), the Consultant shall be liable for damages, including any additional costs of procurement of similar services from another source.

If the termination results from acts or omissions of the Consultant, including but not limited to misappropriation, nonperformance of required services or fiscal mismanagement, the Consultant shall return to the County immediately any funds, misappropriated or unexpended, which have been paid to the Consultant by the County.

- C. If expected or actual funding is withdrawn, reduced or limited in any way prior to the termination date set forth above in Section II or in any amendment hereto, the County may, upon written notice to the Consultant, immediately terminate this Contract in whole or in part.

If the Contract is terminated pursuant to this Section IV, paragraph C: (1) the County will be liable only for payment in accordance with the terms of this Contract for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination; and (2) the Consultant shall be released from any obligation to provide further services pursuant to the Contract.

Funding under this Contract beyond the current appropriation year is conditional upon appropriation by the County Council of sufficient funds to support the activities described in this Contract. Should such an appropriation not be approved, this contract will terminate at the close of the current appropriation year.

- D. Nothing herein shall limit, waive, or extinguish any right or remedy provided by this Contract or law that either party may have in the event that the obligations, terms and conditions set forth in this Contract are breached by the other party.

### **PART 2: INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS**

- A. In providing services under this Contract, the Consultant is an independent contractor, and neither the Consultant nor its officers, agents or employees are an employee of the County for any purpose. The Consultant shall be responsible for all federal and/or state tax, industrial insurance, and Social Security liability that may result from the performance of and compensation for these services and shall make no claim of career service or civil service rights which may accrue to a County employee under state or local law.

The County assumes no responsibility for the payment of any compensation, wages, benefits or taxes to, or on behalf of, the Consultant, its employees or others by reason of this Contract. The Consultant shall protect, indemnify and save harmless the County, its officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, costs and/or losses whatsoever occurring or resulting from 1) the Consultant's failure to pay any such compensation, wages, benefits or taxes; and 2) the supplying to the Consultant of work, services, materials and/or supplies by Consultant employees or other suppliers in connection with the performance of this Contract.

- B. The Consultant further agrees that it is financially responsible for and shall repay the County all indicated amounts following an audit exception which occurs due to the negligence, intentional acts or failure for any reason to comply with the terms of this Contract by the Consultant, its officers, employees, agents and/or

representatives. This duty to repay the County shall not be diminished or extinguished by the prior termination of the Contract pursuant to the Duration of Contract, or the Termination section.

- C. The Consultant shall protect, defend, indemnify, and save harmless the County, [and the State of Washington (when any funds for this Contract are provided by the State of Washington)] their officers, employees, and agents from any and all costs, claims, judgments, and/or awards of damages, arising out of or in any way resulting from the negligent acts or omissions of the Consultant, its officers, employees, and/or agents. The Consultant agrees that its obligations under this subparagraph extend to any claim, demand and/or cause of action brought by or on behalf of any of its employees or agents. For this purpose, the Consultant by mutual negotiation, hereby waives, as respects the County only, any immunity that would otherwise be available against such claims under the Industrial Insurance provisions of Title 51 RCW. In the event that County incurs attorney fees and/or costs in the defense of claims, for damages within the scope of this section, such fees and costs shall be recoverable from the Consultant. In addition King County shall be entitled to recover from the Consultant fees, and costs incurred to enforce the provisions of this section.

Claims shall include, but not be limited to, assertions that the use or transfer of any software, book, document, report, film, tape, or sound reproduction or material of any kind, delivered hereunder, constitutes an infringement of any copyright, patent, trademark, trade name, or otherwise results in unfair trade practice.

Nothing contained within this provision shall affect and/or alter the application of any other provision contained within this agreement.

### **PART 3: INSURANCE**

The selected Consultant shall furnish Commercial General Liability, to include Products and Completed Operations, in the amount of \$1,000,000 combined single limit; \$2,000,000 aggregate. In addition, evidence of Workers' Compensation and Stop-Gap Employer's Liability for a limit of \$1,000,000 shall be provided.

**Such policy/policies shall endorse King County, and its appointed and elected officials, officers, agents and employees as additional insureds.**

King County reserves the right to approve deductible/self-insured retention levels and the acceptability of insurers.

### **PART 4: CORRECTIVE ACTION**

If the County determines that a breach of contract has occurred, that is the Consultant has failed to comply with any terms or conditions of this Contract or the Consultant has failed to provide in any manner the work or services agreed to herein, and if the County deems said breach to warrant corrective action, the following sequential procedure will apply:

- A. The County will notify the Consultant in writing of the nature of the breach;
- B. The Consultant shall respond in writing within three (3) working days of its receipt of such notification, which response shall indicate the steps being taken to correct the specified deficiencies. The corrective action plan shall specify the proposed completion date for bringing the Contract into compliance, which date shall not be more than ten (10) days from the date of the Consultant's response; unless the County, at its sole discretion, specifies in writing an extension in the number of days to complete the corrective actions;
- C. The County will notify the Consultant in writing of the County's determination as to the sufficiency of the Consultant's corrective action plan. The determination of sufficiency of the Consultant's corrective plan shall be at the sole discretion of the County;
- D. In the event that the Consultant does not respond within the appropriate time with a corrective action plan, or the Consultant's corrective action plan is determined by the County to be insufficient, the County may commence termination of this Contract in whole or in part pursuant to Section IV.B;
- E. In addition, the County may withhold any payment owed the Consultant or prohibit the Consultant from incurring additional obligations of funds until the County is satisfied that corrective action has been taken or completed; and

- F. Nothing herein shall be deemed to affect or waive any rights the parties may have pursuant to Section IV, Termination Clauses, Subsections A, B, C, and D.

## **PART 5: ASSIGNMENT/SUBCONTRACTING**

- A. The Consultant shall not assign or subcontract any portion of this Contract or transfer or assign any claim arising pursuant to this Contract without the written consent of the County. Said consent must be sought in writing by the Consultant not less than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date of any proposed assignment.
- B. "Subcontract" shall mean any agreement between the Consultant and a Subcontractor or between Subcontractors that is based on this Contract, provided that the term "subcontract" does not include the purchase of (i) support services not related to the subject matter of this contract, or (ii) supplies.

## **SECTION V - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Non-Discrimination in Benefits to employees with Domestic Partners

King County's Equal Benefits (EB) Ordinance 14823 states that to be eligible for award of contracts at a cost of \$25,000.00 or more, firms must not discriminate in the provisions of employee benefits between employees with spouses, and employees with domestic partners. The successful Contractor, bidder or proposer shall be required to complete a Worksheet and Declaration form. Compliance with Ordinance 14823 is a mandatory condition for execution of a contract. The EB Compliance forms are available online at: <http://metrokc.gov/procurement/forms/eb.aspx>.

- B. Disclosure – Conflict of Interest

King County Code Chapter 3.04 is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and the Consultant agrees to abide by all the conditions of said Chapter. Failure by the Consultant to comply with any requirements of this Chapter shall be a material breach of contract.

1. The Consultant covenants that no officer, employee, or agent of the County who exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and implementation of the scope of services funded herein, or any other person who presently exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and implementation of the scope of services funded herein shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Contract. The Consultant shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance with this provision.
2. If the Consultant violates the provisions of Section V (1) or does not disclose other interest required to be disclosed pursuant to King County Code Section 3.04.120, as amended, the County will not be liable for payment of services rendered pursuant to this Contract. Violation of this Section shall constitute a substantial breach of this Contract and grounds for termination pursuant to Section IV (B) above as well as any other right or remedy provided in this Contract or law.
3. The King County Board of Ethics maintains a website that provides information regarding King County ethics requirements. To review specific areas of the Code of Ethics that relate to contractors and vendors, follow this path: <http://www.metrokc.gov/ethics/>, and access 1) The Code of Ethics, "Employee Code of Ethics 3.04", and 2) Advice and Guidance "Doing Business with Contractors, Vendors, Clients and Customers". Under "Employee Code of Ethics 3.04", there are two areas of the code that speak specifically to contractors: 3.04.060 B1 (attempting to secure preferential treatment) and 3.04.120 (disclosure of interests by consultants requirement). There are other sections under conflict of interest, 3.04.030 that are directed to employees and govern their relationships with contractors.

- C. Recycled/Recyclable Products

It is the policy of King County to use recycled materials to the maximum extent practicable (King County Code Chapter 10.16). Consultants able to supply products containing recycled materials that meet performance requirements are encouraged to offer them in bids and proposals and to use them wherever possible in fulfillment of contracts.

The Consultant shall use recycled paper for the production of all printed and photocopied documents related to the fulfillment of this Contract and shall ensure that, whenever possible, the cover page of each document printed on recycled paper bears an imprint identifying it as recycled paper. If the cost of recycled paper is more than fifteen percent higher than the cost of non-recycled paper, the Consultant may notify the Contract Administrator, who may waive the recycled paper requirement. The Consultant shall use both sides of paper sheets for copying and printing and shall use recycled/recyclable products wherever practical in the fulfillment of this Contract.

**D. Proprietary Rights**

The parties to this Contract hereby mutually agree that if any patentable or copyrightable material or article should result from the work described herein, all rights accruing from such material or article shall be the sole property of the County. The foregoing shall not apply to existing training materials, consulting aids, check lists and other materials and documents of the Consultant which are modified for use in the performance of this Contract.

**E. Supported Employment Program**

King County encourages the creation of supported employment programs for developmentally and/or severely disabled individuals. The County itself has such a program and is actively seeking to do business with those contractors and consultants that share this employment approach. If your firm has such a program, or intends to develop such a program during the life of this contract, please submit documentation supporting this claim with your bid/proposal/qualifications. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Ray Jensen, Community & Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Division, (206) 296-5268 or the County's Business Development and Contract Compliance Section at (206) 205-0700.

**SECTION VI - MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS/AUDITS**

- A. The Consultant shall maintain, and shall require any sub-consultant to maintain, accounts and records, including personnel, property, financial and programmatic records and other such records as may be deemed necessary by the County to ensure proper accounting for all project funds and compliance with this Contract. All such records shall sufficiently and properly reflect all direct and indirect costs of any nature expended and services provided in the performance of this Contract. The Consultant shall make such documents available to the County for inspection, copying, and auditing upon request.
- B. All records referenced in subsection (A) shall be maintained for a period of six (6) years after completion of work or termination hereof unless permission to destroy them is granted by the Office of the Archivist in accordance with RCW Chapter 40.14, or unless a longer retention period is required by law.
- C. The Consultant shall provide access to its facilities, including those of any sub-consultant, to the County, the state and/or federal agencies or officials at all reasonable times in order to monitor and evaluate the services provided under this Contract. The County will give advance notice to the Consultant in the case of fiscal audits to be conducted by the County.
- D. The Consultant agrees to cooperate with the County or its designee in the evaluation of services provided under this Contract and to make available all information reasonably required by any such evaluation process. The results and records of said evaluation shall be maintained and disclosed in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.17.
- E. If the Consultant received a total of \$500,000.00 or more in federal financial assistance during its fiscal year from the County, and is a non-profit organization or institution of higher learning or a hospital affiliated with an institution of higher learning, and is, under this Contract, carrying out or administering a program or portion of a program, it shall have an independent audit conducted of its financial statement and condition, which shall comply with the requirements of GAAS (generally accepted auditing standards), GAO's Standards for Audits of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions and OMB Circulars A-133 and A-128, as amended and as applicable. Consultants receiving federal funds from more than one County Department or Division shall be responsible for determining of the combined financial assistance is



equal or greater than \$500,000.00. The Consultant shall provide one copy of the audit report to each County division providing federal financial assistance to the Consultant no later than six (6) months subsequent to the end of the Consultant's fiscal year.

## SECTION VII – REQUIRED FORMS


The following completed forms will be required from the selected contractor, prior to contract award:

- A. King County Personnel Inventory Report
- B. Affidavit and Certificate of Compliance with King County Code 12.16
- C. Statement of Compliance - Union or Employee Referral Agency Statement (if applicable)
- D. King County Code 3.04.120 and Consultant Disclosure Form
- E. 504/ADA Disability Assurance of Compliance and Corrective Action Plan
- F. Equal Benefits Compliance Declaration Form

Copies of these forms are available by contacting the King County Procurement and Contract Services Division. They are available in paper form, or may be obtained via e-mail. Please contact Cathy Betts at 206-263-4267 or Roy L. Dodman at 206-263-4266, or by sending an e-mailed request to [cathy.betts@metrokc.gov](mailto:cathy.betts@metrokc.gov) or [roy.dodman@metrokc.gov](mailto:roy.dodman@metrokc.gov)

## SECTION VIII – BID PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

- A. One (1) signed copy of the entire RFP package.
- B. One (1) signed copy of any Addendum that was issued. (If it has signature box at bottom of first page, it must be returned.)
- C. One (1) unbound copy of proposal response marked "Original."
- D. Seven (7) copies of proposal response.
- E. One (1) CD Rom of proposal response in Microsoft 2000 or 2002-2003/XP format
- F. Complete the Bid Identification Label below (or reasonable facsimile) and attach it to a prominent place on the exterior of the submission envelope, box, etc.

<b>URGENT – SEALED BID ENCLOSED</b> <b>Do Not Delay – Deliver Immediately</b>	
 <b>King County</b>	King County Procurement & Contract Services Section Exchange Building, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor 821 2nd Ave, EXC-FI-0862 Seattle, WA 98104-1598
<b>Bid No.</b>	<b>RFP 137-07CMB</b>
<b>Bid Title</b>	<b>Public Health Research Consultant</b>
<b>Due Date</b>	
<b>Vendor</b>	